



Men Against Violence Against Women

45 River Estate Circular, River Estate, Diego Martin, Trinidad.

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DIRECTORS: Christopher Holder, *CHAIRMAN*. Donald Berment, *SECRETARY*. Desmond Persad, *TREASURER*.

Date: Thur/8/04/04

Our Ref: mavaw/pc2/cd

Your Ref:

*The Director,
Community Development Division,
Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs,
Cor. Jerningham Avenue and Queens' Park East,
PORT OF SPAIN.*

SUBJECT: FORMAL THANKS FOR MAVAW'S COMPUTER SYSTEM UPGRADE.

Dear Sir,

Please accept our sincere thank you for the assistance your Ministry provided in order to upgrade the Computer System used by Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW) in our North East Location, at No 45 River Estate Circular, River Estate; Diego Martin.

Your Ministry's kind consideration will enhance MAVAW's ability to contribute more to our Nation's Development in this critical arena of Violence Reduction. This tool has tremendous potential to be used in new and innovative ways for the development of our North East Location, as explained below, in addition to recording our ongoing research, casework analysis, desktop publications, CD preparation, etc. (*No ability to do Internet Work as yet*)

As you may be aware, our 2002 Domestic Violence Awareness Handbook, Edited by our Chairman Police Inspector Christopher Holder, has been a valuable addition to our Local Literature Resource and is still in great demand, being regularly used in all the Nation's Libraries, especially the West Indiana Collection at the UWI Library and the Heritage Section at the National Library.

We hope to revise this text and very soon produce a CD version of the existing one, a Project that will go a long way towards decreasing the demand from so many sections of society and provide a User-Friendly-Graphical Interface for our young adventurous population.

Men Against Violence Against Women has already produced electronically: -

- ♥ An overview of the most successful Healthy Relationships Curriculum used in Canada.
- ♥ A Parenting Programme focused on Training as opposed to Discipline.

These are provided free on request by anyone supplying three 1.44MB Floppy Disks.

The most immediate benefit to our Organisation is the opportunity to do our Nation Building work without the Time and Cost Constraints embedded in the operational policy of the National Library system. Their Internet Access however is still very valuable to us in order to keep in touch with our numerous similar minded International and Local Organisations, although time restrictions also exist here. A subsidy for ADSL service from TSTT would rectify this setback.

You may also be aware of my personal attempt, over a period of nine years, as the Technical Co-coordinator for the Uptown Carnival Improvement Committee (UCIC), to successfully bring MAS

and PAN back “Behind The Bridge” on the Piccadilly Greens. UCIC was not successful however, in implementing social and physical infrastructure development, which we were confident would have provided an escape valve for the observed and researched Community needs in Laventille.

My personal opinion is that the reluctance and/or indecision by the controlling authorities at the time, to act upon our properly documented and authoritative advice, has resulted in the current “flaming den” of illegal activity, emanating from this area with has so much potential for positive societal development and housing so many talented sons and daughters of our beautiful Island.

With this experience still painfully fresh in my mind and observing how my immediate community of River Estate is being traumatized by incidence of violent behaviour, my intention as a Director and Secretary of Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW) is to return to the early Research Mode of my Specialization Process in Low Cost Housing and Community Lifestyles.

This means using No 45 River Estate Circular as a base for a comprehensive 7-Component Development Project outlined below. Having viewed with grave concern the affects and trauma of my longitudinal, cross-sectional and sequential case studies, with the consequent growing violent outbursts in and around my immediate community, the following is being planned and any advice on possible funding sources will be greatly appreciated: -

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| 1. Computer School | (9am—12pm) (2pm—5pm) | 10 persons per class—FREE. |
| 2. Internet Café | (6pm—9pm) | \$10.00 per session 10 persons per class. |
| 3. Gym Training Facilities | (9am—9pm) | \$10 per day. |
| 4. Sewing School | (9am—12pm) (2pm—5pm) | 10 persons per class—FREE. |
| 5. Refreshment Centre | (9am—9pm) | Market Prices. |
| 6. Reference Library | (9am—9pm) | FREE. |
| 7. Drug Free Park and Promenade | (To back of property) | |

Each Component will run for one year in the first instance divided into 4 three-month cycles. This absolutely necessary initiative is critical in order to assist in preventing the consequences of another “Laventille” example in River Estate and Diego Martin

Men Against Violence Against Women has the professional staff willing and able to operate this 7-Point Crime Reduction Plan and we anticipate a good working relationship with your Ministry as we progress with this exciting initiative. Said initiative is expected to be a Pilot Project to be utilized in all the Communities where MAVAW’s have been actively working over the years.

My 30 plus years developmental research project titled “The Social Effects Of And Construction Methods Employed In Community Lifestyles And low Cost Housing, Relevant To Modern Day Techniques With An Accent On Tropical Architecture” has clearly identified the need for such comprehensive, properly managed Community Initiatives, without the negative influences used at times in partisan political activity.

I will be using the Upgraded MAVAW Equipment to fax this Document to you. The Signed letter will be sent next week. Again our sincere thanks for your kind assistance.

SignedDONALD BERMENT Secretary MAVAW.

Yours In Nation Building

Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205

G.M. Co-ordinators: David Law, Johnny Bharath,

P.O.R.O.

cc. The Prime Minister—The Minister of Social Development—The Minister of Planning and Development.